





OTAGO.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]  
OCTOBER 9.—Much that is alike, and much that is markedly different, are to be observed between Dunedin of the present day and Melbourne nine years ago. The same producing cause has occasioned a similar feverish excitement. Like in Melbourne, the town is overflowing with fresh arrivals, the hotels are overcrowded, every available place is converted into a boarding-house or restaurant; the stores and other places of business have more to do than they can manage, the landing and wharfage accommodation is inadequate to the constantly-increasing demand on it. Fabulous prices are asked for sites of land and frail paltry tenements, and the whole scene is one picture of irregularity, confusion, and discord. But, as I have said, there are markedly distinctive features. There are not the wild profusion, the reckless dissipation, the utter abandonment to all kinds of excesses that formed so prominent a portion of the picture of the early days of the Victorian gold-fields. No doubt this is partly to be attributed to the fact that success is not nearly so general or so great as it was in Victoria, but something I think is due to the hardly gained experience of many laborious years, which have taught miners the uncertain nature of the pursuit they follow, and how bitterly they may have to regret the sacrifice of the results of brief success, followed by long years of misfortune and "bad luck."

Another distinctive feature is the absence of new movements. To the east and west the miners of Victoria and New South Wales have "checked" and assurance enough to carry them anywhere, and they land here free from any embarrassment, rather with the air of old residents come to take possession of the place than strangers seeking a new home. The ordeal of Australian colonisation appears to fit one for roughing it anywhere.

And, lastly, Dunedin and Melbourne of old are widely different in their adaptability for improvement and progress. Dunedin, though picturesque, is a wretchedly laid out town.—Built amongst a number of hills, the business portion of the town has hitherto been confined to a limited space at the base of the principal hills, and serious physical difficulties operate to limit its extension. Land has always been difficult to obtain in Dunedin suitable for business purposes, and even before the recent movement to the south the land was very high. A great deal of the best situated ground is the property of the Church, that cannot part with the freehold.

Your readers are probably aware that the settlement of the province of Otago is the result of a movement of a section of the Scotch Church, and the early settlers were almost to a man from the land north of the Tweed. The Church has always conserved and enlarged its influence, and the Scotch element has been preserved in a manner truly astounding to any one not acquainted with the clannish propensities of the inhabitants of the "Land of Cakes." Strangers have always been discouraged, not to say repulsed, and the feeling is far from abated now, when strangers are making the fortunes of the old inhabitants, and converting into an important colony a paltry province. The extortions practised on the new arrivals in the disposal of land are hardly to be credited. Exorbitant rents are asked for short leases of narrow frontages with only a few feet depth. No care is had to the nature of the buildings, but with the shortest-sighted of policies, the terms are such that persons study only to put up the cheapest description of buildings, and slightness, convenience, and even safety from fire are utterly unthought of. Thousands of pounds are being expended on a wretched wood and iron town, which it would almost be a boon if within a year or two a fire should destroy.

Before the diggings a few stone stores and shops were in course of erection. These are now being completed, some are already so. One has just been let to the Bank of New South Wales for fourteen years at a £1000 a year. It cost £2000 only to build. Four pounds a foot per annum for unoccupied land, with a lease of five to seven years, the buildings to be left, are a price and terms commonly asked. Little weatherboard shops that have cost from £50 to £150 easily secure leases at from £200 to £500 a year, six months, sometimes twelve months in advance. The public buildings are quite inadequate in space and quality for the demand that will be made on them. The Treasury and Government offices are of wood, the gaol is a handsome stone building, but far too small for the accommodation that will, ere long, be required. The court-house is a large wooden building. The two latter are situated on the shores of the bay. This, by-the-by, is the large wide shallow extremity of two arms of land that open, at about nine miles distance, into the sea. Across one of the arms, at a distance of a mile from Dunedin, an ocean is again to be reached, but the only entrance for ships is to the opening of the bay, and but few vessels can come up to Dunedin, owing to the shallowness of the water. At low tide hundreds of acres of the bay are to be walked over, and sooner or later much of this must be redeemed. Indeed it is extraordinary that such has not hitherto been done, especially considering how the material could be procured from the neighbouring hills. A small ill-built jetty stretches a few hundred feet into the bay, and as yet this is the only accommodation for landing passengers and goods. I should not omit to mention that the hills round Dunedin are fringed, and in some parts covered, with neat tasteful dwellings, and the bay at the foot of the town, gives the picturesque appearance before alluded to.

I will now give you a little of the recent information from

of the streams the prospector should betake himself, but it is to be feared few will be able to endure the rigour of the climate amongst the snow-clad mountains. That very rich gold deposits do exist in the island is not to be doubted; traces of gold are to be met with in almost every one of the countless streams that run through it, and the same indications have even been found on the ocean shore. Very heavy returns have rewarded the efforts of most of the early visitors to Gabriel's Gully. Two hundred to two thousand pounds a man, I should say are the limits within which the various prizes have been drawn. The other gullies opened in the neighbourhood of Tuapeka have as yet shown very small results, and this, although an immense amount of prospecting has been going on. I should mention that a new gully has just been opened (Evans'), about which nothing farther is known than that the first prospect yielded 1 oz. 12 dwts. to five dishes full.

The Watahuna gold-field is nine miles nearer to Dunedin than Tuapeka. The diggings are situated on a large flat. The results have not been large, but many parties have made comfortable wages. A Commissioner has just been appointed to this field in the person of Captain Baldwin, formerly in the army, and a settler or ranch-holder, as it is called, in the province. Some gold was reported to be found in the north, and the Government, with praiseworthy promptitude, despatched a surveyor to report on it. The result is entirely unfavourable. A notification to that effect was issued yesterday. The miners have been subjected to an immense amount of hardship which again and again must have made them feel "le jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle." Scarcely of wood, absence of firing, cold and wet, have been the enemies with which they have had to contend; and that they have surmounted these, and speak volumes for the indomitable energy and endurance of the hardy sons of the Anglo-Saxon race. It is to be remembered that the bulk of those who have got the gold are not skilled miners, but mostly the residents of the province.

Your readers will naturally enquire, is there room for more—would I advise them to come? In answer, I say that the rush hitherto has been out of all character in excess of the prospects that induced it. If those who have come succeed they will have to thank their luck more than their judgment. The golden ground already opened is far overstocked with people, and goodness knows what the miners who still daily arrive will do if new ground is not opened. I have no doubt it will be, but I fear not to an extent sufficient to provide the miners already here with employment, much less afford room for more. In short, it would be sheer madness for more to come; there is not a gold-field in Victoria or New South Wales that does not afford more hopeful prospects than the newly opened ones here, and I say this whilst I admit that it is quite possible further discoveries may be made by the immense number of miners here already, that may open a field to a large number; but this cannot be for a long while to come.

Otago, I think, has a great future in store for it. The plentiful supply of water from end to end of it, its great pastoral and agricultural capabilities must make it very prosperous, independent of its mineral resources. And when these are estimated, when it is considered that, although possibly limited in number, there are some richly auriferous tracts of land, and that must afford employment for a lengthened period, and that other metals and minerals are most likely to be discovered, I think I am not wrong in predicting that Otago is destined to occupy a prominent position among the colonies of this hemisphere. The great object of its inhabitants, together with those of the provinces of Nelson and Canterbury, should be to procure a separation from the northern island, and the establishment into a distinct colony. The interests of the two islands are not common, and I have seen quite enough of the system of double government (provincial and general) to arrive at the conclusion that it is liable to insuperable difficulties at any moment. It works at present more through toleration than any other cause. The jurisdictions would be constantly conflicting, did not the general Government delegate to the provincial Government powers which, in strictness, it has no right to exercise. In fact, there is a sort of understanding that if the local government feels necessitated to outstep its functions the general Government will indemnify it. It is easy to see that this understanding, which may continue for a while in a quiet, peaceful community, unused to political struggles, is liable to rupture, nay more, is certain to be upset when the emoluments of public office, and the excitement of public life open the way to the stormy absorbing conflicts which seldom fail to grace the arenas on which the battles of politics are fought. The return of a hostile member to the General Assembly will make the opposite party wonderfully scrupulous about allowing a local Government to overstep its powers. Ministerial questions will be raised on it, impeachments urged in every direction. If the Southern Island be formed into a separate colony and the provincial government be maintained, probably the powers will be differently divided, especially those relating to the collection and expenditure of revenue. Whilst on the subject I may mention that the tariff in existence here, and which is fixed by the Central Government, is a monstrously unjust and unequal one, utterly wanting in system or consistency.

Sydney could and should establish relations with New Zealand that would mutually benefit each to an extent it is impossible to realise. The obvious means to cement this bond of union is one that would answer a double purpose, connect the two colonies together, and besides, offer immense advantages to each colony separately. Need I say I allude to establishing a line of communication with "the world's great highway," the Isthmus of Darien. With fast steamers to Panama New Zealand would be brought within thirty-two days of England, and Sydney within thirty-eight days. And this is only one of the advantages to be gained. Is it nothing that a prompt line of communication will open to the enterprise of New South Wales and New Zealand the markets of the west coast of North and South America, and establish relations between them, the results of which it is difficult to over estimate? The feeling in New Zealand is strongly favourable to the line I have mentioned, both as a payable speculation in itself and for the advantages that would accrue from it. I heard a gentleman of large property declare that he would invest every shilling of his available means in it. A joint guarantee from New South Wales and New Zealand, of minimum profit, as well as a guaranteed

subsidy, would induce capitalists to start the undertaking without delay.

Thursday, October 10th, 3 p.m.  
I have just seen a gentleman, Mr. Ogg, manager of a private association, who has brought down most important news from the Tuapeka gold-field. A party sunk some four or five feet through the slate bottom, supposed to be rock, and found gravel and wash dirt beneath, from which gold was obtained. Mr. Ogg's party crushed some of the slate itself out of their claim and passed it through the sluice, and obtained eight ounces of gold from it. I send you a small piece of the rock which Mr. Ogg kindly gave me; it may be interesting to your savans to examine it. He tells me also gold has been obtained on the hill side. He went into a drive fifteen to twenty feet into the hill, and saw gold. The party (of four) owning the claim, obtained thirty-two ounces in four and a half days.

Evans' Gully is nearly deserted. The original party remain, and have got some coarse gold. It is only found in the crevices of the rock.

From Watahuna, the news is a little better. Some good finds have been made, but here as in Gabriel's Gully, the ground is very patchy. Reports have come down of a new gully, twenty-five miles beyond Tuapeka, but I have no means of verifying them.

In respect to the second bottom, which I have referred to above, it is quite possible that owing to local upheaval of a portion of the rock, gold may apparently be found beneath it. If it be main rock, it is not necessary to say that it is impossible gold should really occur under it, except by a local displacement of the rock. If it be merely a sedimentary deposit which I cannot credit, then the real bottom has yet to be reached. It would be well to allow some of your savans to examine the fragment I send you. The gold, Mr. Ogg tells me he found in the rock, occurred in the clefs and cleavages.

In conclusion, I may state that numbers are still returning whence they came, and a very general feeling of distrust exists as to the permanence of the diggings, and especially as to further discoveries of deposits rich as those of Gabriel's Gully.

The Omeo has arrived from Melbourne. The town is overstocked with goods, and very bad prices are realising. Cartage to diggings, £20 a ton.

Monday, October 14.

The Kembla met with an accident going out of the heads that compelled her return. The Lyttelton steamer ran into her. All accounts agree it was the Lyttelton's fault. The Kembla is patched up, and now leaves for your colony with 7066 ounces gold. The Omeo will sail this afternoon; 12,530 ounces are already cleared by her. She takes back over a hundred passengers. During the month 4700 passengers have arrived, and 771 left.

There is a little stir about the Coromandel gold-field in the Northern Island, but nothing to justify it as yet. The Maories are averse to its being worked. There is nothing new from the gold-fields here. Notwithstanding what one of the local papers vaguely states, I believe I am justified in saying that in only one instance has gold been found under the presumed bottom, and that instance, as before stated, I attribute to an upheaval and displacement. The Watahuna gold-field appears to be improving, its population is much on the increase. A Bendigo firm have given £8000 for a fourteen years' lease of a large wooden hotel. Robberies are becoming more frequent. The roads are improving, and as cartage becomes lower goods sold more readily and move off to the diggings.

GIDEON GRUNDY'S BUNDLE OF STICKS.

No 13, Suckling's Remembrance.  
Why so pale and wan, fond lover?  
Prythee, why so pale?  
Will, when looking well can't move her,  
Looking ill prevail?  
Prythee, why so pale?  
Why so dull and mute, young sinner?  
Prythee, why so mute?  
Will, when speaking well won't win her;  
Saying nothing do't?  
Prythee, why so mute?  
Quit, quit, for shame! this will not move;  
This cannot take her—  
If, of herself, she will not love,  
Nothing can make her love,  
You may take her!

NO. 14.—THE POLYGYMY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

Although polygamy was practised by many among the Jews, before the coming of Christ, the extent to which it prevailed at any time has been unaccountably exaggerated. Let it be closely examined, and the following facts will appear.  
From the days of Adam till the time of Abraham, a period of two thousand years, no instance is recorded of any man having had two wives at once, except Lamech, the descendant of Cain, who feared that he might be murdered, either for that offence, or (possibly) for the murder of the former husband of one of his wives. The passage is obscure. (iv. Gen., 19.) There is an intimation, however, that among the causes which brought on the Divine judgment of the deluge was the multiplication of wives, and the owing no restraint herein, beyond their own wills; "they took them wives of all that they chose." (vi. Gen., 2.) This passage is also obscure; for it may mean the choice of the sons of Seth with the daughters of Cain, and not, as in the case of Lamech, of more than one.

During the next two thousand years, viz., from Abraham to Christ, we find neither any law nor any general practice of polygamy among the chosen people. The first book of the Old Testament lays down the rule that a man shall "leave his father and mother, and cleave to" (not his wives, but) "his wife;" and that on the ground that "they twain are one flesh." The last book of the same sacred volume upbraids the divorce of the Jews, and tells us why God had made monogamy the law for human nature:—"The Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously, yet is she thy companion (help-meet) and the wife of thy covenant. And did not He make one?" (See Gen. ii. 24.) "And wherefore ONE?" That He might seek a Godly seed." And further, it is added, that "God hath put away" divorce. (Malachi ii. 14-16.)

Such was the Divine law; but what was the practice of God's people, from Abraham downwards? Emphatically, it NEVER WAS POLYGYMY. From the twelve sons of Jacob, who each had but one wife, downwards through all the generations of Israel even to this day, one wife was the rule, at all times and in all places of which we have any record.  
The well-known exceptions are all of individuals who were able to set the law at defiance; and in no one instance is their polygamy approved in the Bible, but in most cases rebuked. The following is a list of all the

cases of polygamy recorded in Scripture during the whole period from Abraham to Christ:

Abraham	took Hagar only at Sarah's request, and had to dismiss her. "A profane person," and so example in any thing.
Jacob	one of his wives was imposed by fraud upon him.
Idoieon	an idolatrous and absolute governor.
Ishmael	an absolute governor.
Abdon	all of them acting against the law which forbade polygamy to the kings, as if in anticipation of the fact that being despotic, the kings would attempt this. (See the law laid down, Deut. xvii. 17; and the comment in Solomon's case, 1 Kings xi. 3-4.)
Saul	a private individual, in the lawless days of Eli's old age, and his sons' villainies.
Solomon	There are no other examples of certain polygamy on record; that is to say, there is only one case from Adam to Abraham of any one practicing polygamy, and only one case of any private individual doing it.
It thus appears that from Adam to Noah, all the patriarchs, the descendants of Seth, had but one wife at a time; and that only two instances of private persons recorded as exceptions, and those under distressing circumstances, during the 4000 years before Christ.	

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NO. 15.—WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN?

To a tune of medieval times.  
Near the lady  
Sat in shadow  
Bower a nightingale;  
Thro' the valley,  
Musically,  
Rang the pensive tale.  
One dear to me  
Came to woo me,  
A sweet singing bird:  
Warmer suiter,  
Fonder, truer,  
Never yet was heard.  
Feathers brown he  
Wore, a downy  
Crest, and on his breast;  
With meaning  
Fond, there leaning,  
I, my cheek would rest.  
Aiming crafty,  
Spied a shaft he  
To my tender mate;  
Then the green  
Kite more speedy  
Came the winged fate.  
\* Though Paul seems in doubt about the word "aper," I do not hesitate to contend that the poet desiderated "sutor" for "unwedded." A downy shawl, A downy, Smith.  
\* Parallels. A downy shawl, A downy, Smith.  
\* Parallels. A downy shawl, A downy, Smith.

NO. 16.—JOHN HAMPDEN REINTERRED: OR, LORD NUGENT AND LORD DENNAN, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE KING'S BENCH, AS RESURRECTIONISTS.

A German physician of the nineteenth century collected, with unwearied industry, all the facts which he could find recorded concerning the human body in its changes after death, and published them in a most curious volume, which he entitled *De Miraculis Mortuorum*. In this book are related many extraordinary and ghastly circumstances; but whoever will turn to the *Criticism of Miracles* for August, 1828, will find none more appalling than the hideous facts which were revealed to these noble body-lifters within "the dread abode" of John Hampden. This narrative is said to have been compiled either by or under the direction of Lord Nugent, who about thirty years ago published a work, in two volumes, which he called the "Some Memorials of John Hampden, his Party, and his Times."

Now, it so happened, that on a certain Sunday in June, to wit, the 18th, 1843, which was the second year of the Civil War, Hampden was mortally wounded in a skirmish with Prince Rupert's troops on Chalgrove-field, near Thame, which was the scene of his school-boy life.

"It is a tradition," Lord Nugent writes, "that he was first seen moving in the direction of his father-in-law's house, at Pytton. There he had in youth married the first wife of his love (for he was twice married), and thence he would have gone to die; but Rupert's cavalry were opposing the plain between Thame and Pytton, and he rode back across the grounds of Haseley, on his way to Thame. At the brook which divides the parishes he paused awhile, but it being impossible for him, his wounded state, to remount if he had lighted to turn his horse over, he suddenly summoned his strength, clasped spurs, and cleared the leap."

These circumstances his biographer has collected from tradition. He reached Thame in great pain and almost fainting, and there, at the house of one Ezekiel Brown, and on the anniversary of his wedding, he expired, after six days of cruel suffering. While his strength sufficed it was employed in despatching letters of counsel to Parliament, whose affairs were at that time in a most unpromising state; when it failed, he disposed himself religiously for death.

His death is ascribed here to a wound in his shoulder, "with two carbine balls, which, breaking the bone, entered the body," and in a note Lord Nugent repeats the tradition, which he discredits, that he died from the bursting of his own pistol. To determine this point, however, at least three or four years before the publication of his memorials, Lord Nugent had obtained permission to disinter the body of Hampden for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of his death.

that arm had wasted away for about six inches up, being evidently smaller than that of the left arm. The spectators were then perfectly satisfied that the tradition preserved in one branch of the family was true, and that his own pistol bursting had shattered the hand and occasioned his death.

It is now time to state another hypothesis of the cause of Hampden's death. If he fell from the horse on receiving the injury in his hand, and dislocated his left shoulder, it seems incredible that he should have been able to regain his saddle. But he might have lost his seat, and sustained his second injury at the brook, whence he proceeded on foot fainting to Thame.

Whether the motive was sufficient to justify this violation of the grave, and disturbance of the dead, and the cutting the arms off with a penknife, "to remove all doubt," may be questioned, and possibly some natural repugnance may have induced Lord Nugent (if the narrative be a true one, and of that no doubt has been entertained) to omit all mention of it in his book; but there seems no reason why the tradition, which the examination had verified, should have been represented as unfounded, if such an examination actually took place. The further results of the scrutiny are yet to be told.

When Lord Nugent descended into the grave he first removed the outer cloth, which was firmly wrapped round the body, then the second, and a third—such care having been extended to preserve the body from the warm of corruption. Here a very singular scene presented itself. No regular features were apparent, although the face retained a death-like whiteness, and showed the various windings of the blood vessels beneath the skin. The teeth of the upper row were perfect, and those that remained in the lower jaw, on being taken out and examined, were quite sound. A little beard remained on the lower part of the chin, and the whiskers were strong, and somewhat lighter than his hair, which was a full auburn brown. The upper part of the bridge of the nose was still elevated, the remainder had given way to the pressure of the cloth, which had been firmly bound round the head. The eyes were but slightly sunk in, and were covered with the same white film which characterised the general appearance of the face.

This was ghastly enough for persons who were neither accustomed to act as resurrectionists, nor had gone through a course of experiments like Frankenstein in his laboratory when he manufactured his monster. But in order to examine the head and hair, the body was raised up and supported with a shovel; on removing the cloths which adhered firmly to the back of the head the hair was found in a complete state of preservation. It was a dark auburn colour, and according to the custom of the times, was very long—from five to six inches. It was drawn up, and tied round at the top of the head, with black thread or silk. The ends had the appearance of having been cut off. And now opens upon us the most hideous fact that has ever yet been revealed by the grave! On taking hold of the top-knot it soon gave way, and came off like a wig. Here a singular scene presented itself; the worm of corruption was busily employed, the skull in some places being perfectly bare, whilst in others, the skin remained perfectly entire, upon which might be seen a number of maggots and small red worms on the feed with great activity. This was the only spot where any symptom of life appeared, as if the brain contained a vital principle within it, which one engendered its own corruption; otherwise how can it be explained that, after a lapse of more than two centuries, living creatures should be found preying upon the seat of intellect, when they were nowhere else to be found in any other part of the body?

NEW ZEALAND.

To the Editor of the Herald.  
Sir,—I have much pleasure in handing to you a copy of the *Taranaki Gazette* of the 9th instant, containing an address to the late Governor of New Zealand, Colonel Gore Browne, and his reply. The intelligent and able treatment in your columns of general and special New Zealand matters encourage me to believe you will willingly insert documents so creditable to the colony and the Governor; and furnishing an official and complete refutation of the absurd and monstrous charges brought against Taranaki settlers of inhuman treatment of the natives.  
It is our conviction that Governor Browne's just, enlightened, and most forbearing course of native policy, and his no less just recognition of the anomalous position of the settlers, cannot be reversed or disregarded by his successor.  
Yours, respectfully,  
JOHN C. NEILD.

21st October.

"Superintendent's Office,  
New Plymouth, 8th October, 1861.  
The following address from the inhabitants of Taranaki to Governor Gore Browne, C.B., and the reply by his Excellency thereto, are published for general information:—  
"E. L. HUMPHRIES,  
Deputy-Superintendent.

"To His Excellency Colonel Thomas Gore Browne, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Colony of New Zealand, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

"Sir,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of Taranaki, desiring upon your Excellency's approaching departure from New Zealand to express our appreciation of your administration of the Government of the colony, and more especially of the measures taken by your Excellency in connection with the natives of this district.

"Although great suffering and loss to our community have resulted from the hostilities which afterwards ensued in this Province, we cannot hesitate to express our conviction that the measures referred to were proper and necessary, and consistent with the rights and interests of both races. Compelled, as we had been for years, to be passive spectators of the lawlessness of the natives towards ourselves, and latterly of their own internecine feuds, we hailed with unequalled satisfaction the announcement of your Excellency's determination to put an end to so disastrous a state of affairs. That your Excellency's intentions were not more ably seconded we have had ample cause to deplore, but we look forward with confidence to the eventual success of the policy which your Excellency's name will always be associated, believing that it is founded in strict justice, and that it will confer on both races a degree of prosperity and happiness that could not otherwise be attained.

"In bidding your Excellency farewell and expressing a hope that health and happiness may attend your Excellency in your new command, we would wish to associate the name of Mrs. Gore Browne.

"We have the honour to be, Sir,  
"Your Excellency's obedient and faithful servants,  
"New Plymouth, Taranaki, 26th August, 1861."

"Government House, Auckland,  
30th September, 1861.

"Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an address signed by almost all the adult male inhabitants of your Province, and beg you to accept and convey to those who signed it my most sincere thanks for this gratifying proof of their good will.  
"I have always felt that the colonists of Taranaki desired only the suppression of lawless violence, and the permanent establishment of law and order; and by their gallantry, and the patience with which they have endured suffering and loss, they have proved that they were willing to risk all man value most dearly in order to secure them. That neither time nor suffering has altered their sentiments, or weakened their determination, is as honourable to them as it is gratifying to me.

"I earnestly hoped to have seen the settlers of Taranaki re-occupying their homes and reaping the harvest of their labour without fear of interruption, and I looked forward to a not distant future when, by the blessed prosperity (the result of established order) would make them forget the past, and consider their exertions not ill requited. It is a subject of very great regret to me that I am obliged to leave New Zealand without seeing the fulfilment of this expectation; but I earnestly hope and believe that the time is not far distant when they will enjoy the blessings of permanent peace and prosperity, for which they have—and will always have—my earnest prayers and most sincere wishes.  
"I have, &c.,  
"T. GORE BROWNE.  
"His Honor the Superintendent, Taranaki."

ON OUR RAILWAY PROGRESS.

To the Editor of the Herald.  
Sir,—To all those who appreciate deeply the importance of progress in our internal communications, there could have been no circumstance more cheering than the feeling manifested by the House on the occasion of the motion of Mr. Seddell for a committee of inquiry into the present railway management, and the best means of extending our internal communications. Although the motion was withdrawn, in compliance with the wishes of a large majority of members, favourable apparently to the object of the mover, still, to a looker on, there could be no doubt of the fixed determination of the House to enter and amend the present state of affairs.

In accordance, therefore, with the advice of Mr. Macleay—sustained with very able reasons—it was determined to await the production of the long promised Government plan.

Another circumstance no less cheering to the prospect of progress is the accession to the House of Mr. Thomas Holt. The constituencies who return such men confer at once an honour on themselves and a service on their country.

Pending, therefore, the production of the plans—and with your approval—it may not, perhaps, be opportune to offer a few observations on, and inquiry into, the causes—why, as to the expenditure on railways, the results obtained have been insignificant, and I shall, as I have heretofore done, endeavour to demonstrate from original causes:—  
First,—That the system, as it is at present, is utterly unsuited to our wants and means, and  
Secondly,—That the powers entrusted with its execution have caused its failure to be augmented to a degree inconceivable with what the system itself is responsible for.

As we have adopted the system, it will be necessary first to enquire into the causes that first called it into existence, and see how far the same circumstances apply to our country.

At the period when railways were first introduced into England, her traffic, already enormous, was increasing in a ratio unprecedented in the history of nations; the power of the road, the canal, and the navigable river, had become unequal to the crisis, and were exhausted. The enterprise of the most wealthy and energetic race in the world had reached its limit, unless some means were discovered to extend the barriers that impeded its onward march. The result, therefore, existed, and fortunately existed also the genius to surmount it. It required a master-mind, and it found it in Stephenson. This genius at once comprehended the magnitude of his task; he had not merely to call into existence a power equal only to the present emergency, but equal also to the developed progression. Immense power was not only required, but immense speed to clear the channels of traffic, and so effectively did he succeed, that in the thirty years which have since transpired, the trade of Britain, with its vast annual increase, has found the power he designed equal to its task.

Let us now compare the necessities of this country with those I have described above, and we shall find the circumstances completely reversed.  
Instead of a very small country swarming with a redundant population, we have a vast surface with a very small population; instead of our industry being concentrated in thickly studded towns and cities—justly named the "workshops of the world"—the principal sources whence our wealth is derived are of necessity most widely spread; instead of materials on the spot, and the powers to mould them, we have to bring them thousands of miles; in the place of abundant labour, we have a scarcity; and, in place of ample means, we have to seek them abroad and on credit.

How, therefore, can the same system be applicable to such a case under conditions so utterly dissimilar, and so diametrically opposed?  
It is equally necessary to both countries to have channels by which their industry may be made available. It is equally important to both to have the Murrumbidgee or the Lachlan; to the gold-seeker of the Burrungong or the Binger; to the farmer of the Hunter or the Hawkesbury; but at what period of the world's history will they be attained, if we achieve fifteen miles a year at a cost of from twenty to twenty-five thousand pounds per mile, as has been hitherto the case?

It is an undervaluing law in all human undertakings that, to obtain success, the means employed should be proportionate to the ends to be obtained. By observing this law Stephenson succeeded, because we have not done so we have failed.

That it is a failure may be taken for granted, when the Minister of Works announces that we can no longer "employ an elephant to draw a child's cart;" and it is allowed to transpire that some system approaching nearer to the above is to be brought forward, with gradients and powers, perhaps approximating to those, the possibility of which Mr. Bell has succeeded in demonstrating—and with fresh surveys of which Mr. Moore already claims to be past master.

I will now proceed to the second part of the inquiry—the administration of the system—and the following comparison will show that what the Government pay for at the rate of 33 1/3 per cent. to the Taranaki Corporation got done at one per cent. This, though apparently incredible, the figures will nevertheless prove to be true.

There has been expended by the Corporation within the last five years one and a half million sterling. A large part has been expended on the great works at Botany, and the channels by which the water is conveyed to and distributed over the city, and the remainder in wharfs, wharves, and the roads and other improvements; this gives an average of 300,000 annually expended, and the cost of the engineer with the surveyors' clerks, assistants, and all their expenses, has been under three thousand pounds a year, or 1 per cent. on the sum expended.

Taking the mean of the sums voted for 1860 and 1861, for the railway department, it will give an expenditure for each year of £150,000, less the cost of themselves, and £33,564 for the services of the engineers, surveyors, clerks and assistants, or 33 1/3 per cent. on the outlay.

These figures would also infer that while the railway engineering department has only one-third part of the work to do, as compared with the corporation officers, they are paid 33 1/3 as much for their services. On the one side the workers have the longest hours with complete success; on the other side we find—works washed away by floods—roads taken up and re-made—surveys, like those of the Grosse Valley, costing thousands ending in nothing—contracts like those of Peto, unskillfully drawn, and consequently leading to expensive litigation—and finally, the late exposures with regard to the shipment of cargoes, by which freight has been unnecessarily quadrupled.

The system, therefore, while unsuitable in itself, is not responsible for the mode in which it has been carried out.

If it be abolished, we may consider that the two and a half millions expended have been the purpose of trying an experiment, and it will remain a question for the Assembly to solve, whether the million and a quarter placed on the Estimates this session shall be entrusted to the same risk and management.

There is no doubt that the different plans devised will undergo a searching scrutiny, from which let us hope a more rational result will ensue.

The length to which these observations have extended warns me that I may be trespassing too much, but if considered worthy of insertion I will pursue the enquiry in another letter, and in the meantime remain,  
Your obedient servant,  
Sydney, 19th October.

PORTOBURIO.

THE COTTON SUPPLY AND SLAVERY.—At the annual meeting of the Bradford West of England Jubilee Bazaar Society, on the 17th, Mr. Henry Mitchell, the chairman, called the attention of the meeting to a sample of beautiful cotton grown in Western Africa, and urged the importance, now that the supply was likely to be cut off from America, of the most direct and secure seeking an ample supply of cotton from other parts of the earth, particularly India and Africa. The Rev. William Moister, a missionary from South Africa, stated that in that part of the earth there was no limit to the growth of fine cotton, and that it was only needed to teach the native population to prepare it for importation to England, to secure a superabundance of the best and finest cotton for this market.















## WILL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BE FINANCIALLY SUCCESSFUL?

(From the Economist, August 24.)

Will the Northern States of America get their money? That is the question upon which, more than upon any other, the duration and the issue of the interminable conflict beyond the Atlantic now turns. We know that the South is poor; we know that its credit is worth nothing; we know that it is trying to make financial use of its sole reliance—cotton; we know that it is issuing loans receivable in produce—almost the extreme act, according to European theory, of financial degradation. If, on the other hand, the North can command unlimited pecuniary resources, if it can succeed in the money market of Europe, if it can within its own boundaries a money market sufficient for itself, the ultimate end is certain. Ten such disasters as that at Manassas Junction would not perceptibly counterweigh the infinite advantage of perfect credit over no credit.

But will the Northern Americans have this advantage? It is far easier to ask this question than to answer it, at least to answer it fully. American finance is in a revolutionary condition as America itself; and the number of questions which it raises are almost infinite in number. The details of the proposed mode of raising money are still only known in this country very imperfectly, and the general considerations which are involved in the future prospects of American finance have hardly been thought out.

As we showed some time since, the ordinary revenue of the Federal Government bears no proportion to the sums which it has now to think of raising. It is principally derived from duties on imports, and was in the year ending 30th June, 1860—

Customs.....	\$11,067,000
Land sales.....	400,000
Miscellaneous.....	227,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$11,694,000</b>

Congress talks, though Mr. Chase did not, of an expenditure of more than \$100,000,000, and it is evident that when a State or an individual proposes to raise and to spend eight times its last year's income, there will be a strain on its resources.

What will be the credit given in Europe under the present circumstances to the American loan? We fear it will not be great. A State during a rebellion, or during a revolution, can in most circumstances have no credit abroad.

And the peculiarities of America are not such as to make it less liable to this general objection, but such as to make it more liable. A Federation as weak at its points of junction. A considerable number of separate States, with local interests, local passions, is of necessity deficient in cohesion. It contains within it disavowing forces from which more homogeneous States are free. When the cry of disunion is once on foot, when that cry has been defended in a successful battle against the partisans of Union, who can say how far its influence will extend, or what strange advocates may identify themselves with it? The United States of America cover a vast area; it would be little less than a geographical miracle if there were an absolute identity of interest in all parts of it. There is no such identity. The grain-growing States of the West are interested to remove the protectionist tariff which manufacturing Eastern States are interested to maintain. When we consider that the dislike to protection has had very much to do with the present movement at the South, we may begin to estimate what the danger will be to the remains of the Union if the Southern States should be successful in their present attempt, and the States which are taxed for the benefit of others and those others are left side by side in a diminished, a vanquished, a less glorious Union.

It may be even yet that the North will conquer, but even then there is no danger if it conquer at the cost of a heavy debt, of which the heavy interest will ensure grievous taxation. On the 30th January, 1860, the interest on the Federal public debt amounted to \$2,930,000. The interest of \$100,000,000 at the rate of 7 per cent. (the "Chase" rate), is \$7,000,000. The two together make just eleven millions, and the Federal revenue is now twelve and a half. With these facts before them, European capitalists will be cautious.

What, then, are the resources of America itself? We fear not much. The deposits of all the Banks of the Union, including those of the Seceding States, were on the 31st January, 1860, only \$27,105,494, but a feeble sum to begin loans on the scale the Federal Government require. It is true the New York Banks stand well. As Banks they stand admirably; the ratio of their cash to their liabilities is excellent. Perhaps no Banks in a time of revolution ever stood so well. They have \$10,552,000 of specie. But what is that when a single year of war is, the estimate of Congress, to cost \$100,000,000?

It is utterly out of the question, in our judgment, that the Americans can obtain credit at home or in Europe, anything like the extravagant sums they are asking for. Europe would lend them; America cannot. But—and this, we suspect, is the question the sounder heads are now revolving—although the Americans cannot get all they ask, may they not get something less?—may they not get enough?

It is in this light that we should look at the plans which are now embodied in the recent legislation of Congress; and it is most unfortunate that Congress has made a great mistake, and caused a needless difficulty. These plans are thus stated by a leading American authority:—"The means of raising money, voted by Congress, are as follows:—

First.—A national circulation of Treasury notes of \$50,000,000, 10 dollars, and 20 dollars, payable in specie on demand at the various commercial centres. These will doubtless enter largely into the currency of the country, supplying a want which is felt particularly in the West, growing out of the enormous depreciation of a circulation based on stock of the seceded States, and secured as they are by the faith of the General Government, in the same way as the circulation of our Eastern specie-paying banks is largely based on deposits of Government stocks; they will also have the effect of equalizing exchanges through the country, thus facilitating commerce, and enabling the West as far as is in its power, to meet indebtedness of the East. Second.—One year Treasury notes, bearing 6 per cent. interest. Temporary loans of 6 per cent. from sixty days to two years, and three years Treasury notes at 7 per cent. These all being convertible, at the option of the lender, into a twenty years 6 per cent. stock. Third.—A 7 per cent. twenty years funded stock of Federal or sterling denominations at par, of 6 per cent. twenty years stock limited to not less than 91-97, equal to a par 7 per cent. twenty years stock."

But it may well be doubted if the rate of seven per cent. offered will be adequate. According to the same authority, the following were the state of American stocks in Wall Street:—

UNITED STATES LOANS.			
	Interest	Offered.	Asked.
6 per cent. Inscribed Certificates 1862	payable,		
6	Jan. July		
6	1867	87	87
6	1868	88	88
6	1869	89	89
6	1870	90	90
6	1871	91	91
6	1872	92	92
6	1873	93	93
6	1874	94	94
6	1875	95	95
6	1876	96	96
6	1877	97	97
6	1878	98	98
6	1879	99	99
6	1880	100	100
6	1881	101	101
6	1882	102	102
6	1883	103	103
6	1884	104	104
6	1885	105	105
6	1886	106	106
6	1887	107	107
6	1888	108	108
6	1889	109	109
6	1890	110	110
6	1891	111	111
6	1892	112	112
6	1893	113	113
6	1894	114	114
6	1895	115	115
6	1896	116	116
6	1897	117	117
6	1898	118	118
6	1899	119	119
6	1900	120	120
6	1901	121	121
6	1902	122	122
6	1903	123	123
6	1904	124	124
6	1905	125	125
6	1906	126	126
6	1907	127	127
6	1908	128	128
6	1909	129	129
6	1910	130	130
6	1911	131	131
6	1912	132	132
6	1913	133	133
6	1914	134	134
6	1915	135	135
6	1916	136	136
6	1917	137	137
6	1918	138	138
6	1919	139	139
6	1920	140	140
6	1921	141	141
6	1922	142	142
6	1923	143	143
6	1924	144	144
6	1925	145	145
6	1926	146	146
6	1927	147	147
6	1928	148	148
6	1929	149	149
6	1930	150	150
6	1931	151	151
6	1932	152	152
6	1933	153	153
6	1934	154	154
6	1935	155	155
6	1936	156	156
6	1937	157	157
6	1938	158	158
6	1939	159	159
6	1940	160	160
6	1941	161	161
6	1942	162	162
6	1943	163	163
6	1944	164	164
6	1945	165	165
6	1946	166	166
6	1947	167	167
6	1948	168	168
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6	1950	170	170
6	1951	171	171
6	1952	172	172
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6	1954	174	174
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6	1964	184	184
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6	1970	190	190
6	1971	191	191
6	1972	192	192
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6	1982	202	202
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6	2012	232	232
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6	2019	239	239
6	2020	240	240
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6	2110	330	330
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6	2112	332	332
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6	2119	339	339
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6	2161	381	381
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6	2167	387	387
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